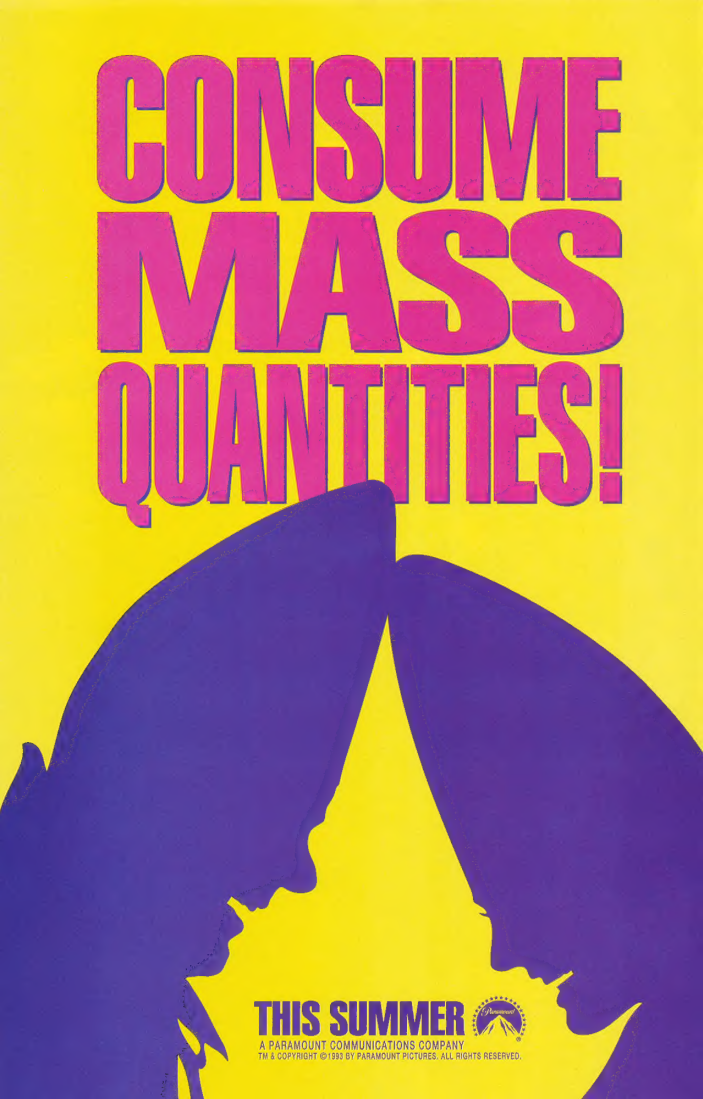
KNIGHTFALL
5
494
EARLY JUNE 93
US $1.25
CAN $1.60
UK 60p
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MOENCH
APARO
MANDRAKE



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THE GOTHAM SEWERS:
CURRENT'S TOO STRONG -- SWEEPING ME TOWARD THE OUTFLOW TUNNELS -- ALL THE WAY TO GOTHAM HARBOR...
... A DESTINATION THAT'LL DEFINITELY LEAVE ME BREATHLESS.
NIGHT TERRORS

DOUG MOENCH WRITER } JIM APARO PENCILLER } TOM MANDRAKE INKER } ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST } RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER } JORDAN B. GORFINKEL ASST. EDITOR } DENNY O'NEIL EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

BATMAN 494. Early June, 1993. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1993 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: Tom Ballou, (212) 636-5520. Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada.
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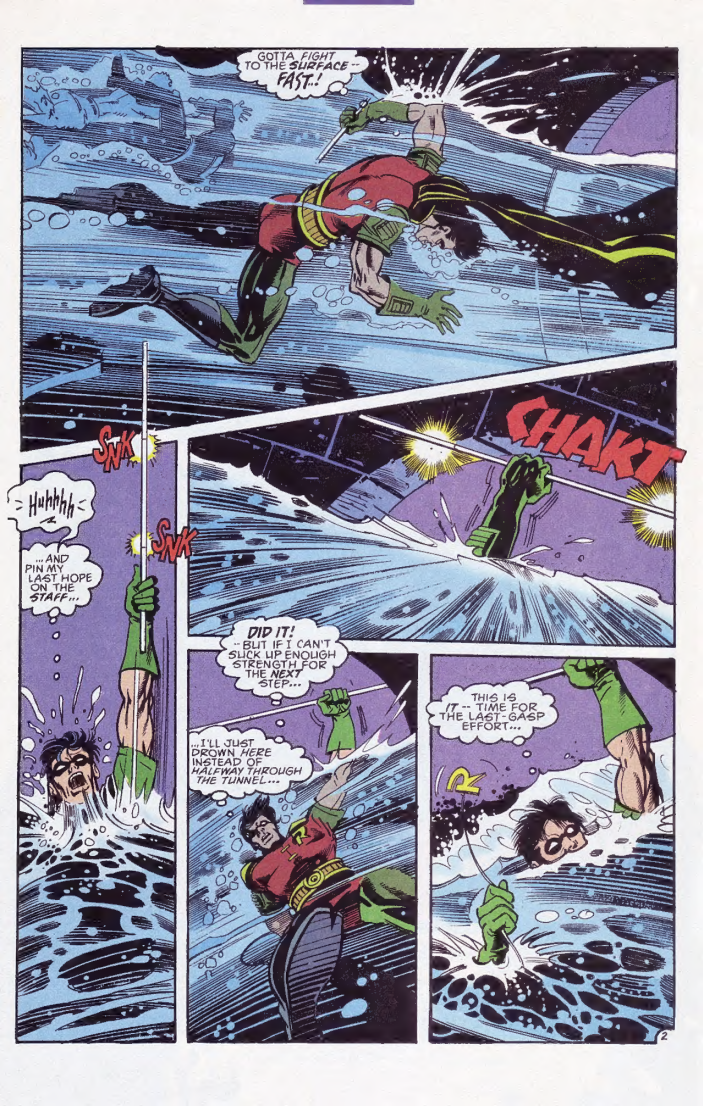

GOTTA FIGHT TO THE SURFACE -- FAST!
CHAKT
SNK
SNK
Huhhhh
...AND PIN MY LAST HOPE ON THE STAFF...
DID IT!
...BUT IF I CAN'T SUCK UP ENOUGH STRENGTH FOR THE NEXT STEP...
...I'LL JUST DROWN HERE INSTEAD OF HALFWAY THROUGH THE TUNNEL...
THIS IS IT -- TIME FOR THE LAST-GASP EFFORT...
2

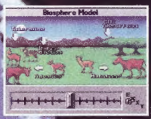
...NOW!
FWWT
WP WP WP CHNK
BINGO! AND SO MUCH FOR THAT TRUSTY STAFF OF LIFE...
SPSH
"...AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BANE AND KILLER CROC ANYMORE...
"... BUT, SOMEHOW, THAT PARTICULAR SILVER LINING...
"... LACKS A CERTAIN SHIMMER AND SPARKLE..."
...STILL, JUST LEMME OUTTA HERE...
...AND I'LL TAKE IT!

THE HUB:
EXCUSE ME, SIR, JUST A MOMENT...
...WHILE I STIR THE SOUP.
MMMM... AND A HEARTY BROTH IT IS, SIR, FLAVORED JUST AS I LIKE IT, WITH ALL THE BLOOD'S MOMENT-OF-DEATH FEAR, HEAVY ON NOREPINEPHRINE AND --
TOK TOK
WHO IS IT?
JOE.
JOE WHO?
SKASH
JOE KERR!
HAHA HA HA
YOU! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
A PARTNER -- SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A TRICK OR TWO ABOUT FEAR... AND HOW TO INSPIRE IT... AND WHO BETTER THAN CORNELIUS STIRK?
YOU WANT TO TEAM UP WITH ME?
TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT... AND MANIA.
I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN BUSY SINCE OUR ESCAPE FROM ARKHAM -- BUT LISTEN TO MY PLAN AND WE'LL BOTH GET A LOT BUSIER!
INDEED, ONCE I LIGHT A CANDLE IN YOUR BRAIN, THERE'LL BE NO REST FOR THE WICKED!
HAHAHAHA

You've got the whole world in your hands!

- Control one of 8 planets or randomly generate your very own

- Create forests, swamps, jungles, seas, deserts, rainforests



- Evolve dinosaurs, mammals, reptiles, birds, fish
- Give intelligence to the species of your choice.. then watch what happens!
- Experiment with global warming and nuclear war
- 3 levels of difficulty
- Powerful 8 meg Super NES memory chip
- Long life battery saves planet scenarios
- Adapted from the hit PC game

Play SimEarth and create new worlds and civilizations...then watch over them for a few Billion years! There's never been another world like the one you build.. and there's never been another game like SimEarth. Move mountains, destroy continents. Watch the results of volcanos, earthquakes and tidal waves. Each and every second you'll be making decisions that will have incredible repercussions billions of years into the future!

SimEarth™

The Living Planet

SUPER NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

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FCI Not Just Kid Stuff

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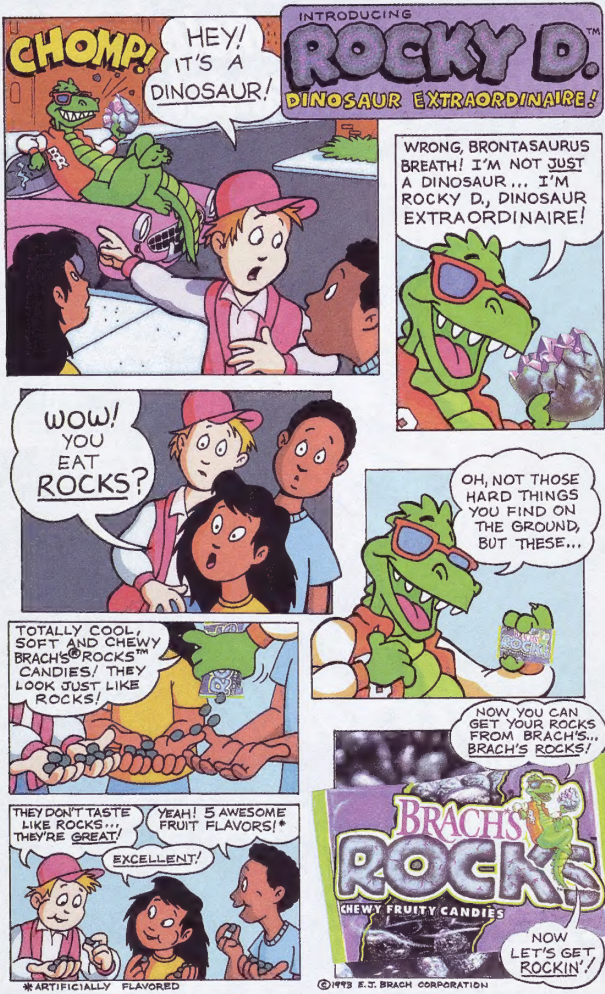
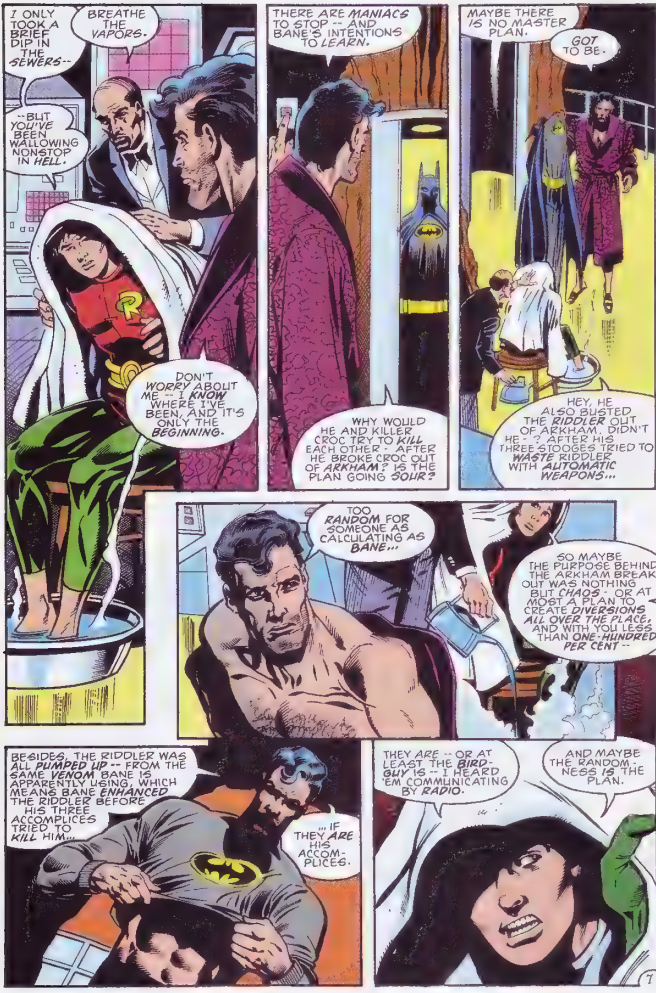

CHOMP!
HEY! IT'S A DINOSAUR!
INTRODUCING
ROCKY D.™
DINOSAUR EXTRAORDINAIRE!
WRONG, BRONTASAURUS BREATH! I'M NOT JUST A DINOSAUR... I'M ROCKY D., DINOSAUR EXTRAORDINAIRE!
WOW! YOU EAT ROCKS?
OH, NOT THOSE HARD THINGS YOU FIND ON THE GROUND, BUT THESE...
TOTALLY COOL, SOFT AND CHEWY BRACH'S® ROCKS™ CANDIES! THEY LOOK JUST LIKE ROCKS!
NOW YOU CAN GET YOUR ROCKS FROM BRACH'S... BRACH'S ROCKS!
THEY DON'T TASTE LIKE ROCKS... THEY'RE GREAT!
YEAH! 5 AWESOME FRUIT FLAVORS!*
EXCELLENT!
BRACH'S ROCKS
CHEWY FRUITY CANDIES
NOW LET'S GET ROCKIN'!
*ARTIFICIALLY FLAVORED
©1993 E.J. BRACH CORPORATION

WAYNE MANOR:
--AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO CANCEL MY APPOINTMENT AGAIN.
FOR THE FIFTH TIME?!
I KNOW, DOCTOR KINSOLVING, BUT --
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME SHONDRA, BRUCE, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO GIVE MY TREATMENT A FAIR CHANCE--
BELIEVE ME, SHONDRA, A GENUINE EMERGENCY HAS COME UP, A WHOLE SCORE OF EMER--
SIR--!
IT'S MASTER TIM, SIR -- DOWNSTAIRS!
SORRY, SHONDRA-- I'LL CALL YOU!
BAKK
KLIK
AGAIN... AND IT FEELS LIKE A PERSONAL REJECTION ...JUST LIKE THE OTHER TIMES...
... BUT WHY?
WHY AM I SO CONCERNED ABOUT THIS ONE PARTICULAR PATIENT ABOVE ALL OTHERS?
WHY AM I REACTING TO HIM... AS IF HE'S BECOMING MORE THAN A PATIENT?

THE MAYOR'S MANSION:
..ENTIRE SITUATION HAS BEEN MISHANDLED FROM THE BEGINNING, GORDON - FROM THE FIRST MOMENT THE ARKHAM BREAK-OUT BEGAN!
AND IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, I'M GOING TO ASK THE GOVERNOR TO CALL OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD!
BUT, IF YOU DO THAT--
THAT'S RIGHT, GORDON...
THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY WIELDS IMMENSE POWER, AND WITH THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING A SINGLE PHONE CALL...
..I CAN DESTROY YOUR CAREER.
THE CAVE:
..SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
ME? WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAN?
STAY HUNCHED OVER, TIMOTHY...

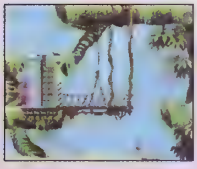

I ONLY TOOK A BRIEF DIP IN THE SEWERS--
BREATHE THE VAPORS.
--BUT YOU'VE BEEN WALLOWING NONSTOP IN HELL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME -- I KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN, AND IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING.
THERE ARE MANIACS TO STOP -- AND BANE'S INTENTIONS TO LEARN.
WHY WOULD HE AND KILLER CROC TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER - AFTER HE BROKE CROC OUT OF ARKHAM? IS THE PLAN GOING SOUR?
MAYBE THERE IS NO MASTER PLAN.
GOT TO BE.
HEY, HE ALSO BUSTED THE RIDDLER OUT OF ARKHAM, DIDN'T HE -- AFTER HIS THREE STOOGES TRIED TO WASTE RIDDLER WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS...
TOO RANDOM FOR SOMEONE AS CALCULATING AS BANE...
SO MAYBE THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE ARKHAM BREAK-OUT WAS NOTHING BUT CHAOS -- OR AT MOST, A PLAN TO CREATE DIVERSIONS ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND WITH YOU LESS THAN ONE-HUNDRED PER CENT --
BESIDES, THE RIDDLER WAS ALL PUMPED UP -- FROM THE SAME VENOM BANE IS APPARENTLY USING, WHICH ME AND BANE ENHANCED THE RIDDLER BEFORE HIS THREE ACCOMPLICES TRIED TO KILL HIM...
... IF THEY ARE HIS ACCOMPLICES.
THEY ARE -- OR AT LEAST THE BIRD-GUY IS -- I HEARD 'EM COMMUNICATING BY RADIO.
AND MAYBE THE RANDOMNESS IS THE PLAN.
7

I STILL DON'T BUY IT, ROBIN.
AT THE VERY LEAST, BANE IS USING THE ARKHAM INMATES HE FREED -- FOR A DELIBERATE PURPOSE.
RIGHT -- AND HE'S USING THEM TO DESTROY YOU --!
THAT'S THE PURPOSE -- AND YOU CAN'T FALL FOR IT!
WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE, ROBIN? LETTING MADNESS RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER GOTHAM?
I TOLD YOU WHAT ZSASZ DID!
HEY, I KNOW THE SITUATION, BUT YOU NEED A REST.
MAYBE IF AZRAEL AND I --
JEAN-PAUL IS FORMIDABLE -- MAYBE EVEN UP TO THE TASK...
BUT BANE IS AFTER ME -- AND AS LONG AS I CAN STAND, THIS IS MY BUSINESS.
ALFRED... THIS IS NUTS.
INDEED.
IN MY CONSIDERED OPINION, YOU ARE BOTH BEYOND HOPE.

The First CD-ROM Game in a Cartridge!

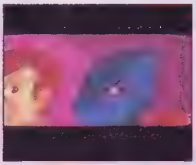
FLASHBACK
THE QUEST FOR IDENTITY™

12 MEG



Planet Titan: *It's a jungle out there. Filled with mutants, antimatter fields and other weird stuff.*

Death Tower: *In a futuristic gladiator battle, it's a fight to the finish against replicants.*



Paradise Club: *You sniff out the aliens' bizarro plans but now they're on to you dude.*

Earth: *Oops! Your identity is uncovered. Now robot cops want to pulverize you.*

Planet Morphs: *Surprise! You show up at the aliens' HQ. They don't look happy.*

Available
for Sega™ Genesis™

Flashback – the first game ever to pump awesome high-octane CD ROM performance from a cartridge. The action screams along at 24 frames-per-second. Just like movie animation. And after each level, the game moves along with animated sequences that are straight out of Hollywood. Excellent!

The Plot? You play the part of Conrad Hart, a GBI agent in training. You stumble on a bizarre alien plot to conquer the earth. Now you've got to outwit and combat droves of replicants, deadly aliens, traps and other stuff too weird for words. No problem for a pro like you...NOT!

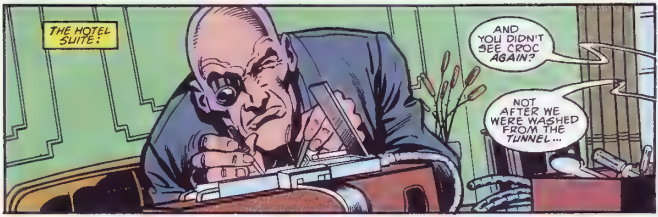
Still not convinced? Then check it out at your local game habitat. Flashback – it's like putting your Genesis into warp drive.

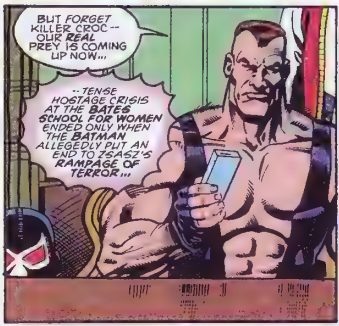
Flashback The Quest for Identity © 1993 Delphine Software and U.S. Gold Inc. All rights reserved. Sega and Genesis are trademarks of Sega Enterprises Ltd

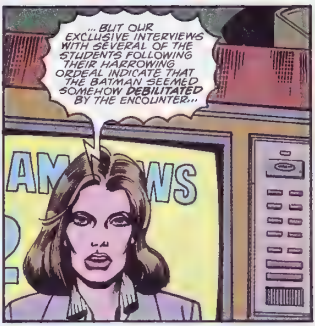
This Ain't No Game.

SUPER
MARIO BROS.

STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 28 AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

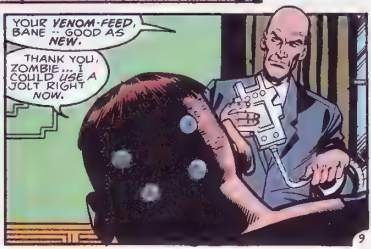

THE HOTEL SUITE:
AND YOU DIDN'T SEE CROC AGAIN?
NOT AFTER WE WERE WASHED FROM THE TUNNEL...

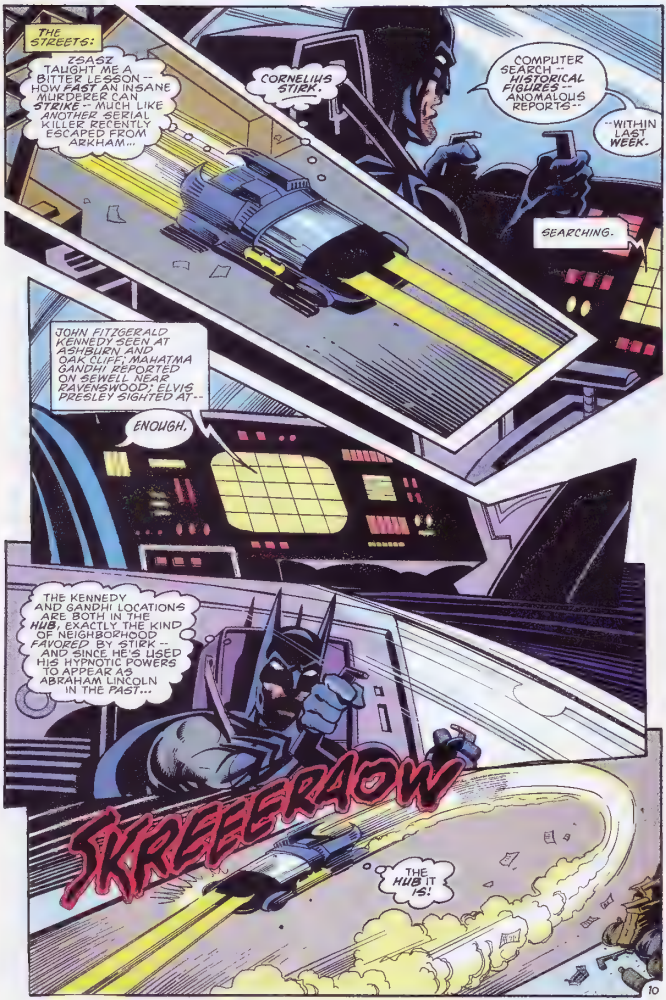

BUT FORGET KILLER CROC -- OUR REAL PREY IS COMING UP NOW...
..TENSE HOSTAGE CRISIS AT THE BATES SCHOOL FOR WOMEN ENDED ONLY WHEN THE BATMAN ALLEGEDLY PUT AN END TO ZSASZ'S RAMPAGE OF TERROR...


..BUT OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL OF THE STUDENTS FOLLOWING THEIR HARROWING ORDEAL INDICATE THAT THE BATMAN SEEMED SOMEHOW DEBILITATED BY THE ENCOUNTER...

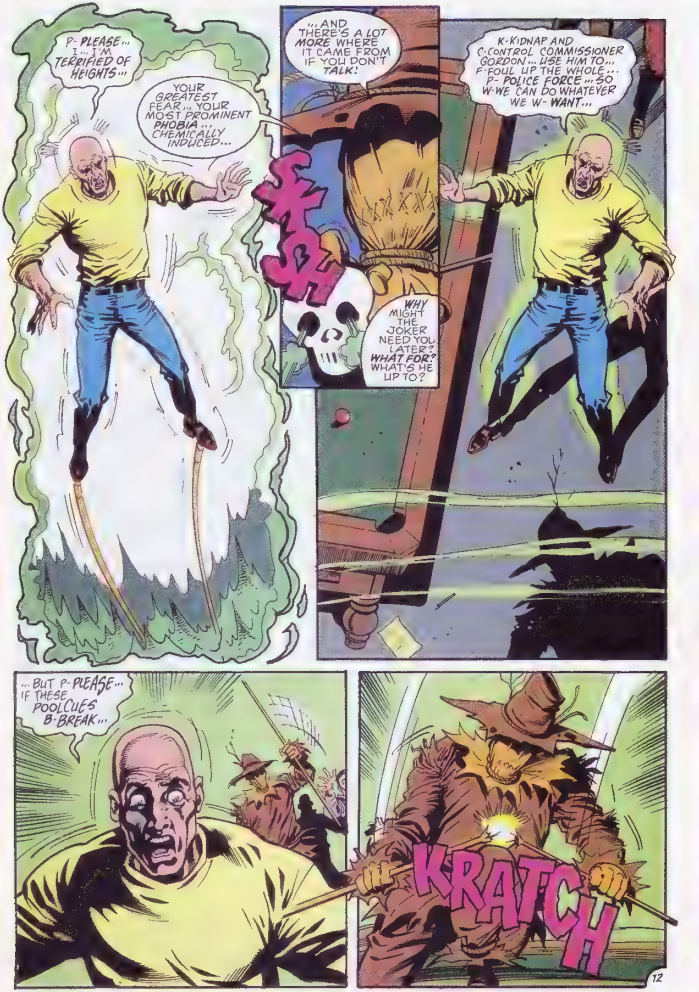
...AS IF ZSASZ MAY HAVE PSYCHOLOGICALLY AFFECTED THE DARK KNIGHT DETECTIVE...
SO WHAT? HE STILL SUCCEEDED -- PUT ANOTHER ONE BACK IN ARKHAM.
BUT NOW THE EROSION IS TOUCHING HIS MIND, BIRD, AS WELL AS HIS BODY.

THE PLAN IS WORKING.
THE BATMAN IS REELING.. READY TO FALL.

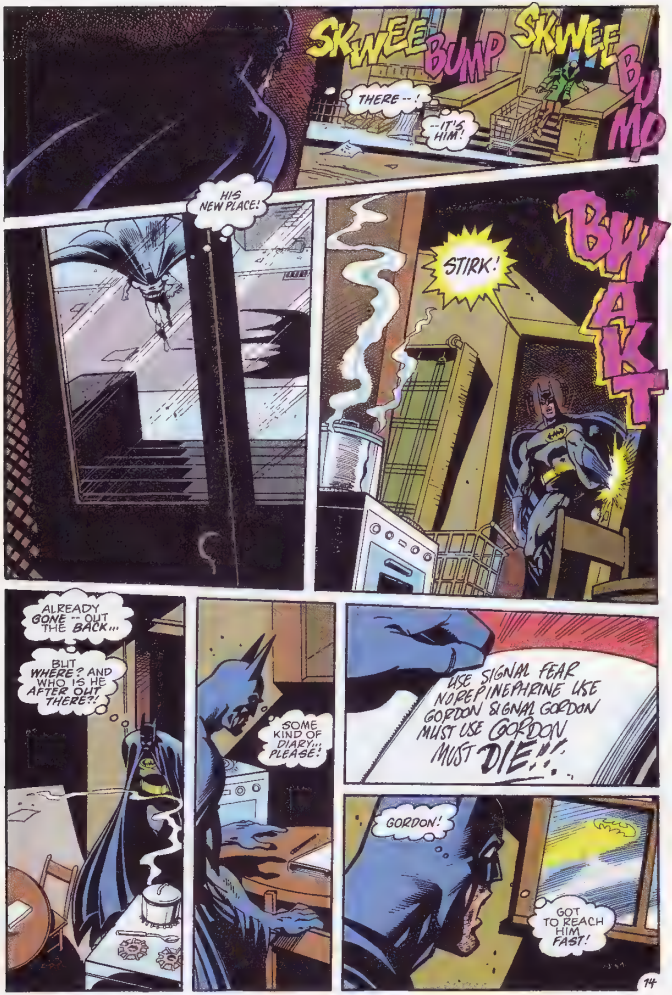

YOUR VENOM-FEED, BANE -- GOOD AS NEW.
THANK YOU, ZOMBIE.... I COULD USE A JOLT RIGHT NOW.


THE STREETS:
ZSASZ TAUGHT ME A BITTER LESSON -- HOW FAST AN INSANE MURDERER CAN STRIKE - MUCH LIKE ANOTHER SERIAL KILLER RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM ARKHAM...
CORNELIUS STIRK.
COMPUTER SEARCH HISTORICAL FIGURES -- ANOMALOUS REPORTS --
--WITHIN LAST WEEK.
SEARCHING.
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY SEEN AT ASHBURN AND OAK CLIFF; MAHATMA GANDHI REPORTED ON SEWELL NEAR RAVENSWOOD; ELVIS PRESLEY SIGHTED AT--
ENOUGH.
THE KENNEDY AND GANDHI LOCATIONS ARE BOTH IN THE HUB, EXACTLY THE KIND OF NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORED BY STIRK -- AND SINCE HE'S USED HIS HYPNOTIC POWERS TO APPEAR AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN THE PAST...
SKREEEAOW
THE HUB IT IS!

SOUTHTOWN:
THE 8 BALL
POOL
POOL BILLIARDS
HHUHHHH!
KRE-SH!
WHAT THE--?!
YOU! YOU'VE WORKED FOR THE JOKER IN THE PAST, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHERE IS HE?!
SKSHSH
N-N-NOT HERE -- S-SAID HE MIGHT N-NEED ME L-LATER...
W-WHAT, WHAT DID YOU S-S-SQUIRT AT ME?
FEAR.


P-PLEASE... I... I'M TERRIFIED OF HEIGHTS...
YOUR GREATEST FEAR... YOUR MOST PROMINENT PHOBIA... CHEMICALLY INDUCED...
...AND THERE'S A LOT MORE WHERE IT CAME FROM IF YOU DON'T TALK!
WHY MIGHT THE JOKER NEED YOU LATER? WHAT FOR? WHAT'S HE UP TO?
K-KIDNAP AND C-CONTROL COMMISSIONER GORDON... USE HIM TO... F-FOUL UP THE WHOLE... P- POLICE FORCE... SO W-WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE W-WANT...
...BUT P-PLEASE... IF THESE POOLCUES B-BREAK...
KRATCH

YAAAAAAAAAAAA
THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION.
AND SWEET DREAMS.
THE HUB:
THE SMELL OF BLOOD... DECAY...
NEARBY.
TOO LATE -- AGAIN...
SKWEE
SKWEE
STIRK! HIS CART -- USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF HIS VICTIMS' BODIES--!
SKWEE SKWEE

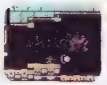

SKWEE BUMP SKWEE BUMP
THERE--!
--IT'S HIM!
HIS NEW PLACE!
STIRK!
BWAKT
ALREADY GONE -- OUT THE BACK...
BUT WHERE? AND WHO IS HE AFTER OUT THERE?!
SOME KIND OF DIARY...; PLEASE!
USE SIGNAL FEAR NOREPINEPHRINE USE GORDON SIGNAL GORDON MUST USE GORDON MUST DIE!!
GORDON!
GOT TO REACH HIM FAST!

THE APARTMENT OF JEAN-PAUL VALLEY!
-- GETTING WORRIED ABOUT HIM, PAUL... REAL WORRIED...
...AND EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT US, I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING HE'LL NEED US.
I'LL BE READY, ROBIN.
I SWEAR IT.
POLICE HQ:
OVER HERE, GORDON.
ABOUT TIME--
-- THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ANSWER THE SIGNAL.
MAYOR KROL'S THREATENING TO CALL OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD...
IT'D MEAN LOSING MY JOB... RIGHT AFTER SARAH AND I JUST GOT MARRIED...
AND IF I LEAVE AS POLICE COMMISSIONER... IT'D PROBABLY MEAN THE END OF YOU TOO.

I DOUBT IT, SIR!
SHOKK
GUH-H!
AND, IN ANY CASE, SUCH A PALE AND POOR APPREHENSION, COMMISSIONER... WHEN THE RICHNESS OF UNBRIDLED FEAR KNOWS NO BOUNDS...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU--
FEAR IS OUR GREATEST FRIEND, SIR...
...AND WHO IS YOUR GREATEST FRIEND?
Y-YOU... YOU'RE NOT--
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR-- I'M NOT! I'M REALLY THE MAN WHO NEEDS YOUR FRESHLY HARVESTED HEART!!!
...ITS NOREPINEPHRINE AND ADRENALIN... ITS DELICIOUSLY BUBBLING STRESS HORMONES... ALL THE NATURAL INGREDIENTS FOR A STEW OF ORGANIC FEAR...
NO, YOU MORON!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KIDNAP-- NOT KILL HIM!

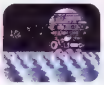
Help Mega Man turn Proto Man into spare parts.

Proto Man's got Dr. Light. But Mega Man is back—ready to put some heavy pedal to the metal to defeat Stone Man, Gyro Man, Star Man, Wave Man, Charge Man and other robotic goons. Use his Mega Buster and Super Arrow to make it to the castle and put Proto Man on the scrap heap forever.



Use your re-adjusted Mega Buster before this robot gets the jump on you.

Where you hit the gravity chamber, it's hard to tell which way is up.



Catch a wave on your hydro cycle and sink this robot for good.

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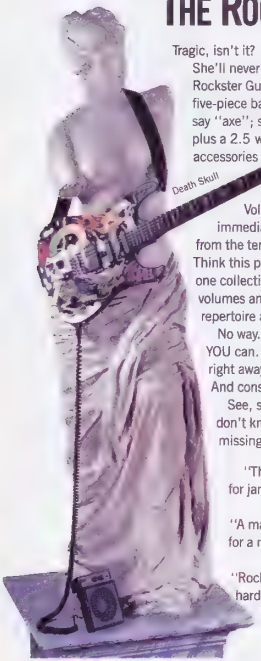
ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO CAN'T PLAY THE ROCKSTER INSTANTLY.



Tragic, isn't it?

She'll never feel the thrill of learning to rock right away with the Rockster Guitar System. Or the joy of jamming instantly with her own five-piece backup band on a full-sized, 22 fret professional guitar (don't say "axe"; she gets touchy) complete with tremolo arm and three pick-ups, plus a 2.5 watt mini-powerhouse amp and all the accessories needed to start riffing. Sadly, here's one babe who can't take the easy road to guitar glory with our innovative book and tape learning set Vol. 1. It won't be her who makes easy work of hard rock, and immediately cranks out sick licks from the ten awesome original tracks. Think this poor dudette will be the one collecting five more vicious volumes and building up the rawest repertoire around?

No way. It'll be you. Because YOU can. So if you want to play right away, write away—or call us. And consider yourself lucky.

See, some people just don't know what they're missing.

"This axe is made for jammin'..."
Metal Edge

"A mammoth guitar for a measly price..."
Kerrang

"Rockster takes the hard out of rock..."
Hit Parader

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Allow 1-3 weeks delivery (express delivery available in US).
Send credit card details/Check/Money Order made payable to AXE USA for
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My color choice is. ☐ Classic Black ☐ Death Skull ☐ Cherry Red
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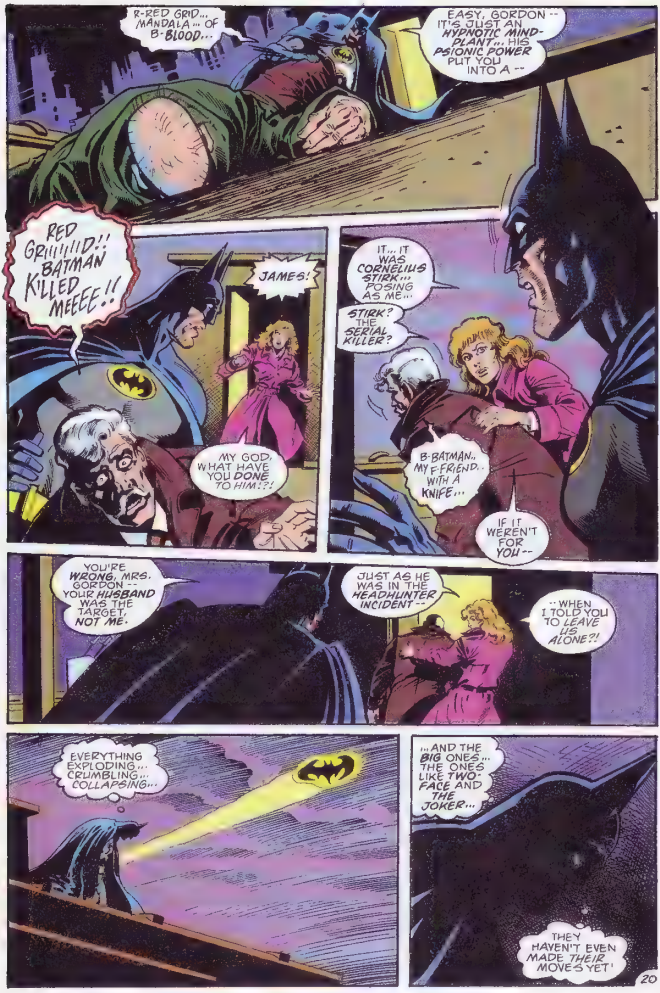
FEAR, SIR! FEAR AND ALL IT BRINGS!
FEAR'S PUNGENT--
TANG
SET AWAY FROM HIM, GORDON!
WHOEVER YOU'RE SEEING, HE'S REALLY CORNELIUS STIRK!
S-STIRK?
BRAMM
PWWT
EXHAUSTED -- TIMING'S OFF -- MISSED THE GUN...
OOPH!
CHUFT
AND NOW BATS SHOWS UP!
WHAT AN UNMITIGATED DISASTER!

SWUK
THRAK
SHUMP
SHATT
FYAH! NEVER SHOULD'VE USED STIRK! TOO UNSTABLE! AFTER ALL, HE'S CRAZY!
INDEED...
EH?
SKAT

AFTER MY VISIT TO THE 8-BALL, I KNEW I'D FIND YOU SOMEWHERE NEAR GORDON...
SCARECROW -- WHAT A BIZARRE SURPRISE!
...AND I'M OFFENDED, JOKER, BY THE FACT THAT YOU WENT TO A RANK AMATEUR IN THE REALM OF FEAR...
...WHEN THE MASTER WAS READILY AVAIL-ABLE.
MEANING YOU, OF COURSE... BUT MAYBE I FIGURED I COULD CONTROL STIRK, EH?
AND HOW WRONG YOU WERE! BAD CHOICE, JOKER -- AND IT MAKES ME ANGRY.
IN FACT, I'M TEMPTED TO GIVE YOU A DOSE OF MY FEAR...
HAHAHA
JUST TRY IT, SCARECROW; I'M SURE I'D FIND THE EXPERIENCE HIGHLY AMUSING!
I'D PREFER TAKING STIRK'S PLACE BUT THIS TIME IT MUST BE AN EQUAL PARTNER-SHIP...
NO ONE CONTROLS ANYONE.
JUST WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND...? IF ONE MAY USE THE TERM ON CRANIUM-PACKED STRAW.
THE POLICE COMMISSIONER IS PEANUTS; IF YOU WANT TO BRING REAL FEAR AND CHAOS TO GOTHAM...
... WHY NOT GO STRAIGHT TO THE TOP?
TERROR-IZE THE MAYOR?
Hmm... I THINK I LIKE IT!
HAHAHA


R-RED GRID... MANDALA... OF B-BLOOD...
EASY, GORDON -- IT'S JUST AN HYPNOTIC MIND-PLANT... HIS PSIONIC POWER PUT YOU INTO A --
RED GRIIIIID!! BATMAN KILLED MEEEE!!
JAMES!
MY GOD, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM!?!
IT... IT WAS CORNELIUS STIRK... POSING AS ME...
STIRK? THE SERIAL KILLER?
B-BATMAN, MY F-FRIEND... WITH A KNIFE...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU --
YOU'RE WRONG, MRS. GORDON. YOUR HUSBAND WAS THE TARGET. NOT ME.
JUST AS HE WAS IN THE HEADHUNTER INCIDENT...
..WHEN I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE US ALONE?!
EVERYTHING EXPLODING... CRUMBLING... COLLAPSING...
...AND THE BIG ONES... THE ONES LIKE TWO-FACE AND THE JOKER...
THEY HAVEN'T EVEN MADE THEIR MOVES YET!

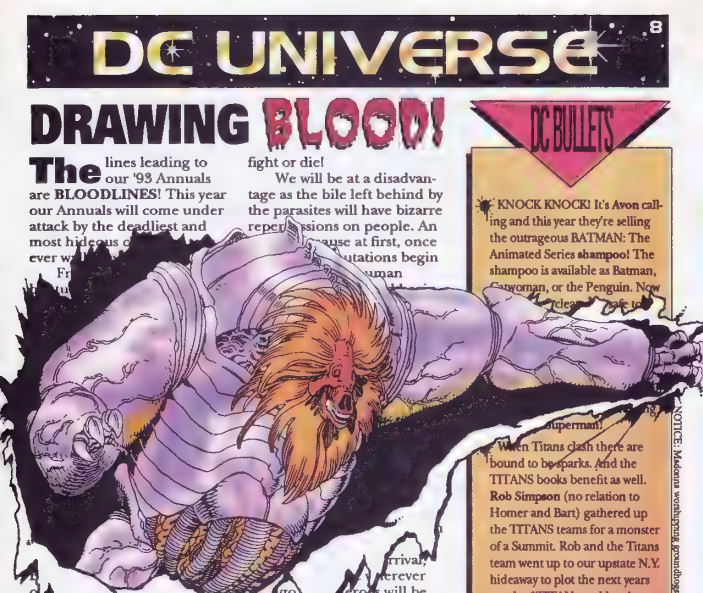
DRAWING BLOOD!

The lines leading to our '93 Annuals are **BLOODLINES**! This year our Annuals will come under attack by the deadliest and most hideous e… ever w… Fr… u…

fight or die!

We will be at a disadvantage as the bile left behind by the parasites will have bizarre reper…ssions on people. An …ause at first, once …utations begin …uman …rrival, …erever …eroes will be go… up to their eyeballs in trouble as the alien parasites mount their attack on the Earth! So prepare yourself for the battle of the century!

terr… …errors wi… …nitely lay… …te to the peop… of Earth! They are bringing the fight to our battlefield. It's …ech… …extra-



DC BULLETS

- KNOCK KNOCK! It's **Avon** calling and this year they're selling the outrageous BATMAN: The Animated Series **shampoo**! The shampoo is available as Batman, Catwoman, or the Penguin. Now …cle… …ck in…

…uperman!

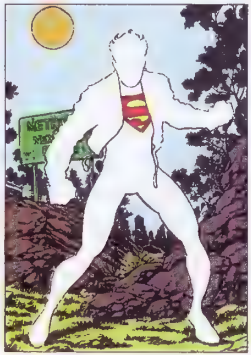
When Titans clash there are bound to be sparks. And the TITANS books benefit as well. **Rob Simpson** (no relation to Homer and Bart) gathered up the TITANS teams for a monster of a Summit. Rob and the Titans team went up to our upstate N.Y. hideaway to plot the next years worth of TITAN troubles. Among the co-conspiritors were **Phil Jimenez, Marv Wolfman, Al Vey,** and **Len Wein.** The highlight of the summit was when Phil began to recite the **Shannon Doherty** interview from *US* magazine —as Shannon!

- A few weeks ago, our editor emeritus **Julie Schwartz** celebrated his 50th anniversary in comics! Even cooler, part of Julie's memoirs will be featured in the first issue of *Amazing Stories* magazine. Be sure to pick that up if you want to learn a thing or two about comics. Hey, Julie managed to outlive the Big Blue and now holds the title of LIVING Legend!
- DARKSTARS and STAR TREK writer **Michael Jan Friedman** was ~~suckered~~ elected to be the commissioner for the office Baseball Rotissery League. Mike will also be a special guest on QVC's comic book segment.

NOTICE: Madonna worshipping groundhogs are flipping FLASH's emblem upside-down. That makes them instantly collectable. Hoard any copies you can!

HE IS HERE!

or is he?



Parasite by Art Adams, *Superman* (?) by Grummett and Hazlewood

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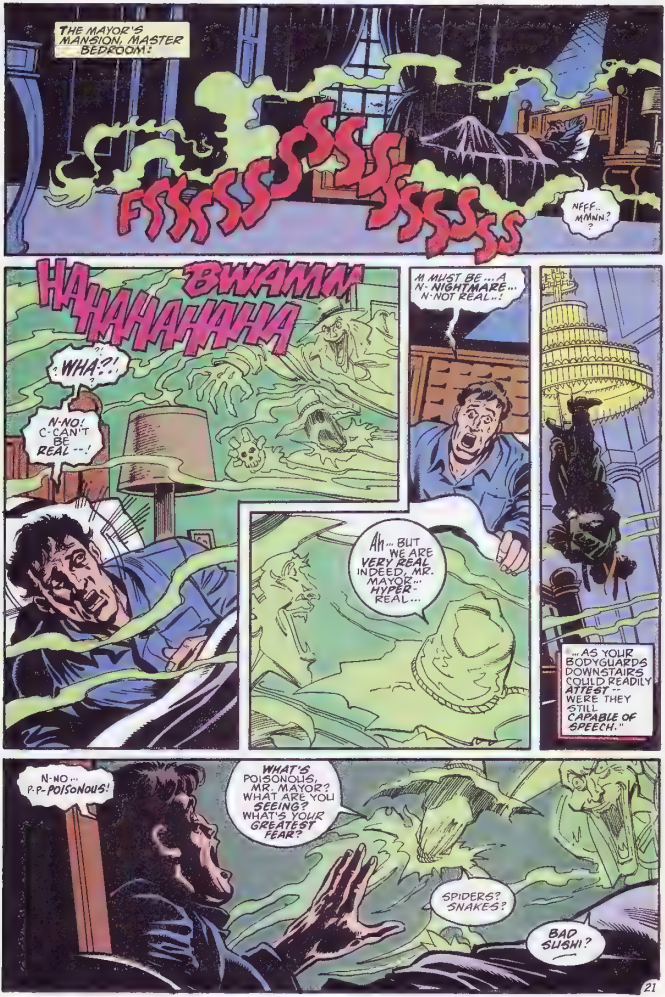
THE MAYOR'S MANSION, MASTER BEDROOM:
FSSSSSSSSSSSSS
NFF... MMNN?
HAHAHAHAHAHA
BWAMM
WHA-?!
N-NO! C-CAN'T BE REAL--!
M MUST BE... A N-NIGHTMARE... N-NOT REAL...!
AH... BUT WE ARE VERY REAL INDEED, MR. MAYOR... HYPER-REAL...
"...AS YOUR BODYGUARDS DOWNSTAIRS COULD READILY ATTEST -- WERE THEY STILL CAPABLE OF SPEECH."
N-NO... P-P-POISONOUS!
WHAT'S POISONOUS, MR. MAYOR? WHAT ARE YOU SEEING? WHAT'S YOUR GREATEST FEAR?
SPIDERS? SNAKES?
BAD SUSHI?

5 SNAKES P.P. POISONOUS.
SNAKES, MR. MAYOR... SERPENTS, VIPERS -- THEIR FORKED TONGUES FLICKERING, TICKLING THE SOFT THROBBING FLESH OF YOUR THROAT, GREASING THE WAY FOR THE SWIFT SHOCKING PUNCTURE OF HOOKED...
HOLLOW
FANGS!
SSSSS! THIS IS WONDERFUL, SCARECROW. FABULOUS!
HAHAHAHAHA
P.P. PLEASE... WH-WHAT... WHAT DO YOU W-WANT?
IT'S TIME TO EXERCISE YOUR CITY-WIDE INFLUENCE, MR. MAYOR... AS YOU TRIP THE FIBER-OPTIC LIGHT FANTASTIC...
TO BRING THIS DARK CITY TO ITS KNEES.
HA HA HA HA HA

CONTINUED IN DETECTIVE #611

CITY ON FIRE

FIND IN THE NEXT BATMAN

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS!

DC COMICS
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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What follows is the second set of letters responding to the powerful and controversial one-shot special, BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN. The first set of these letters, which I consider to be the most profound responses to a single comic book I have ever experienced, were printed in BATMAN #493, still on sale at most comics outlets.

Dear Dennis O'Neil,

I just had to let you know how much I loved John Ostrander's BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN. As you know, I've always loved Batman, but this story brought out a lot of feelings that I'd forgotten about. It seemed important to me to tell you my thoughts.

I have no great love of guns at all. My mother commited suicide in 1990, and when she did, it was with a handgun she had bought from a gun store the same day that she took her own life. I've always felt that if she had been unable to buy that gun she might still be alive today. Maybe she might have had time to reflect on the severity of her decision and tried to work things out, I don't know. A man can at times drive himself crazy with what-if's.

I also served as a gunnersmate (GMG) aboard the battleship USS IOWA back in 1989. I was one of the few men who survived the explosion of Turret-2. Many good friends of mine died that day, and I still find myself asking why it had to happen.

The answer is obvious to me now, but back then I was sad and sick. The story made me remember how senseless people often can be with guns. I'm not writing this letter to gain sympathy; I just want you to know that the story touched me deeply. I've written a letter to Mr. Ostrander, and I hope he will be allowed to write stories for Batman from time to time in the not-to-distant future.

I hate guns and I wish that the government would do something about all the guns that are being passed around like Hershey's Kisses. Living in New York, I imagine that you must hear about shootings all the time. It's pretty bad here in Stockton, too.

Take care and I hope that DC keeps giving 'em hell.

Harry Daniel Hettmannsperger III
Stockton, CA

Dear Editor,

I am very disappointed with BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN. Through advance releases I was led to believe that the subject matter, guns, would be handled in a balanced manner, exploring all points of view. Not only was this not the case, but in the editorial, oddly placed on the last page, I learn that all proceeds will go toward gun control efforts. I feel tricked. If you were doing an issue on AIDS and were giving the proceeds to an AIDS foundation, you would advertise that fact, probably in hopes of boosting sales. So, I guess you know where your audience stands on gun control and decided to deceive them into giving a donation. I don't usually contribute to the NRA, but now I feel obliged to donate twice the cover price of this comic book to them.

I can certainly understand your outrage over the "random, senseless, unbearable killing" of John Reisenbach. Unfortunately, the problem is not "the proliferation of guns in this country," it is "the ease with which they are used." John could just as easily have been stabbed, clubbed or run down by a car-jacker. Somehow the problem of random, vicious violence, while presented in your comic, was sidestepped in your rush to "indict" a single tool. I guess it would be a conflict of interest if Warner Bros. Studios gave their "full support" to an indictment of the messages of hate and violence they promote through such artistic endeavors as "Cop Killer" by rapper Ice-T.

Your deceit in this issue, from inaccurate statements made by characters to your hidden overall purpose, destroys any future editorial credibility. To paraphrase Batman—preaching in church; what a cliché!—we won't buy your lies.

K. Blake Cash
Aldan, PA

I am printing the following two letters—which begin so nearly indentically that I originally thought I had accidentally begun to type the same letter again—back to back to contrast the specific comments they raise and opinions the authors espouse.

Dear Mr. O'Neil,

Ordinarily, I come into these letters to chat about the strength or weakness of the story, briefly note how nice the artwork was and bid you a civil farewell. Such routine ramblings are woefully inadequate to describe how I felt about BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN.

The issue of gun control is one that I personally feel very, very strongly about, as obviously you and the other folks at DC do. More and more often of late, I have found myself wishing that our government would take a stronger stand on gun control and stop allowing such highly vocal yet greatly illogical people like the members of the National Rifle Association to foolishly insist that their "right to bear arms" cannot only be limited to guns used for game hunting and target practice, and that the types of guns cannot be limited either. I likewise wonder who these people think they're kidding. Do they really expect us to think that someone is going to hunt deer with an Uzi, or that armor-piercing ammo is needed for them to enjoy target practice? Are they warped enough to believe it themselves? If so, it seems to me that those are the very *last* people who should have access to firearms!

Therefore, I am very sympathetic to your views on the matter and you have my deepest condolences on the loss of your friend, as noted in this issue's text page, to the type of horrifyingly senseless violence that has come, hand in hand, with our nation's lack of gun control. Like you, I wonder how many more people will have to die before the rest of the country gets the message.

I particularly applaud the decision to have Robin fail in his original mission to safeguard the snitch's daughter. Not that I wanted her to die, you understand; but, because it effectively pointed out that heroes, even cops, cannot be in all places at one time nor do everything for everybody. They want to, oh, how they want to—but they can't.

Thank you one and all, and especially John Ostrander, who delivered the message of this book clearly and effectively without sounding preachy. If this book makes even one person stop and think before they get a firearm and join this madness, it will have been worth it.

David Peattie
Concord, CA

Dear Editor,

Now if I wanted to, I could do what I usually do regarding Batman stories—praise the art (not bad); praise the writer for how he handled Robin (pretty well); say how gritty and dramatic the story was (very); praise the attention to detail of street language (it was good). But, I'm not going to do that. Instead, I will address the serious issues involved in this comic, even if it means that I won't get printed. As long as you read this and get the message I'll be happy.

Gun control is'a serious issue in America today, and it is not as black-and-white as you portray it to be. I can understand how the death of a loved one would motivate DC Comics to publish BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN and I can comprehend the message in it. After all, I was a liberal once, and felt the same way. Nowadays I've changed my perspective and become a Libertarian. It is from this perspective that I address this issue.

If the law takes away the guns from those who purchase them through the admittedly flimsy legal restrictions placed on guns now, that will not stop the gangs and psycho-killers from getting them from the black market. Therefore, those who do most of the killing with these guns will still have them, and law-abiding citizens will not.

I understand that people are angry about the number of accidental deaths that result from kids playing with guns, as when Tim's friend Hudson almost killed himself in the story. But take away guns from everyone and criminals will feel freer to do more killing. I ask you—is this better?

I'm not saying that gun control is a bad idea. What I am saying is that the impetus for gun control cannot come from laws passed by only a few politicians. As Bruce said at the end of the story, the desire to get rid of guns must come from the people and not government. If we're going to get rid of the guns, we must start in the home, with parents, or else all the laws in the world will change nothing.

I find it painfully ironic that the back cover of the book featured an advertisement for a "Terminator" video game. "Terminator" is a machine that kills with guns. And you've printed an ad for it on the back of a gun-control book. Sloppy.

I think you guys really needed to hear this before you did a story like this one again.

Jay McIntyre
Doylestown, PA

Dear John Ostrander,

Allow me to point out that not one of the deaths in BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN would have been prevented by gun control legislation as your comic tried so weakly to argue for. In fact, every gun in this book was in possession under *illegal* circumstances! No one under the age of 21 can legally buy or own any firearm, yet all of the transactions made for guns in this book were against every firearm law in the country, not to mention drug laws.

See, this country already has laws in effect that make the actions in your book against the law. Unfortunately, when someone is arrested for violating these laws, that person is usually not given a sentence that equals his or her crime. That is another argument, but the point is that gun control laws you seek will punish no one but those law-abiding "fat white bastards who want to play with their guns on weekends (p. 39)."

Please explain to me how gun control would have stopped any of the deaths in your book. Whether it be a useless seven-day waiting period or an outright ban, criminals will continue to illegally obtain guns, just as they obtain drugs, just like in your book.

Mr. Ostrander, I have always considered you my favorite writer. I typically purchase anything with your name on it. I think my biggest disappointment with BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN is the fact that it is a terribly weak argument for gun control. And with all the righteous speeches, it just plain stunk, not because it is anti-gun but for two other reasons. One, if you are going to write a story on gun control, write about scenarios that would pertain to gun control (e.g., a waiting period to prevent someone from buying a gun to use in an upcoming planned crime). Two, it is unfair to present such a one-sided view on such a passionate issue. I am always willing to listen to those who are for gun control, and always willing to debate them, but I never ignore them. This book would not have bothered me as much had there been a fair and two-sided discussion of the issue. If DC Comics is going to delve into politics, you must allow for such fair discussion so that the readers may make up their own minds—especially those younger minds who are being introduced to political issues for the first time. To fail to do so would be to censor open ideas and make DC Comics no more than silly propaganda.

I very much regret that my hard-earned dollars spent on this book will go to some gun control group. I fault only myself for trusting DC Comics not to blindly support such a group, and in turn, act as a voice for their readers. I say that you blindly supported some group close to the editorial on the last page of the comic. Even though the death of John Reisenbach is terribly tragic, the odds that the gun used to kill him was legally purchased are slim to none. Some young punk probably got the gun on the black market. Unfortunately, I fear that your hopes of the proceeds from this comic helping to solve the riddle of our gun problems will go unfulfilled. The proceeds should have gone to the National Rifle Association, if anyone, not only to protect our right to own guns, but also to help push legislation that would severely punish those who commit crimes with guns.

Please allow the view of millions of law-abiding Americans to be seen just as visibly as that of those who wish to destroy the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Peter C. Welpton, II
Plano, Texas

Dear Editor,

The issue in question is the excellent BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN, which was not only beautifully written and drawn but also very thought-provoking. I reside in Glasgow, Scotland, so I don't really see a lot of gang fights with guns, etc. The only time we see this ever-growing problem is on TV or a video, and these programs or films come mainly from America. This is the first time I have enjoyed a comic that hits hard at one of the big problems the major cities of America seem to have. What made the storyline even more realistic was the street dialogue. John Ostrander has a magic touch and is a pleasure to read.

Although Glasgow is not another "gun city," it, too, does have a lot of major problems. Maybe having the Dark Knight over here may help the situation. I mean, he has been to London (DETECTIVE #590). Here's hoping!

Peter White
Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Dear Denny and Scott,

I loved BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN. Vince Giarrano once again provided some good, quirky art like he did in this year's BATMAN ANNUAL. The surreal qualities of his work melded well with John Ostrander's realistic writing style. Also, great cover by Dave Dorman. In the past, the only covers I'd seen by him were "generic" poster-style shots of super-heroes. This was the first time I'd ever seen him paint a cover to go with a specific storyline and, sheez, was it good!

Frank Balkin
address withheld by request

Once again, I have not responded to any of these letters in the hope that you readers will.

MTGGLF,
Jordan B. Gorfinkel
—They say you want a revolution...

NEXT WEEK, IN DETECTIVE, Joker and Scarecrow attack the mayor while Firefly lights Gotham on fire. It's a blazing hot time in the old town tonight in DETECTIVE COMICS #661, **Knightfall** Part 6, by Chuck "Pyro" Dixon, Scott "Hot Stuff" Hanna and introducing new, regular "TEC penciller Graham "Nova" Nolan!

IN TWO WEEKS, RIGHT HERE, Batman squares off with Firefly; Azrael tests himself in action; Scarecrow and Joker attack the Mayor; Poison Ivy kidnaps Lucius Fox; and Bruce Wayne and Shondra go to a dinner...under Bane's "paternal" eye! It's the Vixen of Vines while Bruce wines and dines in BATMAN #495, **Knightfall** Part 7, by Doug Moench, Jim Aparo and special guest "Aparo Inker" Bob Wiacek!

COVER CREDITS: Kelley Jones created it, Bob Le Rose enhanced it with hues, and Curtis King cover-edited it.

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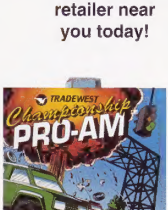

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